



Bethesda Downtown Sector Plan

Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC)

Meeting Minutes

Friday, May 31st, 2024 @ 8:00 AM

Notes Taken By: Dave Yampolsky

Hybrid Meeting (Microsoft Teams and in-person)

B-CC Regional Services Center, 4805 Edgemoor Lane East
Room B

IAC MEMBERS AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS PRESENT

IAC Members: Dedun Ingram, Co-Chair, Jack Alexander, Co-Chair, Andy O'Hare, Amanda Farber, Dave Yampolsky, Michael Fetchko, Naomi Spinrad, Stacy Wolf, Joyce Gwadz

Other Participants:, Christie Ciabotti, Elza HizeL-McCoy, Pete Fosselman, Cindy Gibson, Jeff Burton, Brandon Stuchey

1) Bethesda Downtown Minor Master Plan Update, Elza HizeL-McCoy, Chief, Down County Planning Division

- 3 Public meetings being held for MMPU one held on 5/19, one held on 5/31 (approx. 15 attendees) and one to be held on 6/1 at Town Hall of Chevy Chase)
- Elza shared the presentation being used at these meetings and to be posted on the planning website (in the future)
- Planning board will begin review of the Scope of Work on 6/13
- Discussion around removal of the development cap and/or increasing the cap
- Elza expressed desire to workshop ideas for the scope of work and review of the MMPU between staff and IAC
- Comments on the Scope of Work, if any, from the IAC are due to Elza on 6/5/24
- IAC to prepare a list of priorities and tools for the discussion with Elza at July meeting, scheduled for 7/12/24.

2) Discussion – Jeff Burton & “Streeterly” aka Norfolk Ave

- Norfolk Streeterly – will only be “open” (aka road closed) Friday evening for concerts; discussion about reasons why it will not be reopened (crime, business complaints about unhoused population, limited ability to enforce in right of way, liquor permitting).
- Renaming of the “Streeterly” to take place – name to tie to Norfolk Ave
- Working with DOT to study a shared street concept

3) Discussion – Amanda Farber – Temporary Sidewalk Closure Enforcement

- Amanda brought up the fact that most developments in Bethesda are not in compliance with the County’s sidewalk closure statutes and some are not in compliance with their approved Traffic Control Plans. This is a safety concern for residents and visitors alike.
- Pete Fosselman will be reaching out to SHA (for areas enforced by their team aka Wisconsin Ave, etc..) to spearhead a walking tour of sites of concern and non-compliance
- One-way/two-way study letter – need to follow-up (no response yet from DOT to IAC letter)

4) Discussion – Naomi Spinrad -- Wisconsin Ave/Bradley Blvd intersection SHA meeting

- there was a site meeting on May 24 at Wisconsin and Bradley, with Joyce Gwadz, Naomi Spinrad, Brandan Stuckey, Elias Workie (SHA) and Qianyu Hu (SHA) to look at the north and south pedestrian crossings on Wisconsin Avenue and the possibility of installing a right turn signal on Wisconsin southbound to Bradley.
- IAC reps asked SHA to move the north pedestrian crossing further north of the intersection, lining up with the curb cut in the median. SHA said the crossing is not ADA compliant. They will consider installing a Leading Pedestrian Indicator *allows pedestrians to begin crossing before cars move), update the button signals. Similar changes are needed for the south crossing.
- Allowing right turns on red from Wisconsin to Bradley was discussed.
- SHA has to do studies, including of crash incidents, and will keep us informed of their progress

5) New Business – Future Agenda Ideas

The July meeting will be held on July 12.